

FRS NEWSLETTER

Volume 3- Issue # 23- September 1999

Dear FRS-Holland Friends!

Let's first start mentioning two letters we received this Summer. One was from Thomas Brändström who agreed with my view as expressed in FRS Newsletter #22 regarding changing listener's habits, lack of support etc. Thanks Thomas! And one Scottish listener thanked us for sending in the FRS Newsletter, even when he hadn't paid his annual fee yet. He asked himself which other magazine would do this for its readers... You know the answer!

The 1999 Summer is one to remember. Weather wise but also radio wise. For those interested in offshore radio it certainly was a *spectacular Summer*, in particular the month of August. In the UK we had the two RNI & Caroline RSLs and in the Netherlands the unexpected and fantastic temporary return of the old Radio Veronica on 1224 kHz AM. I for myself was in the lucky circumstance to *see/visit* both RSLs in the UK and the Veronica broadcast in Hilversum. I was on the Mebo 3, the Ron Revenge, in the Marlin studio (satellite service Caroline) and in Hotel Lepershoek (Veronica). It was indeed a great time and I enjoyed every minute. Offshore Radio still has a great impact after all those years...

T2s,

Peter

Special announcement: due to computer problems, this issue was sent two weeks later as opposed to the original deadline which was the 15th of September. Apologies. The *Made in Holland* column is canceled. However, a substantial part of this edition is devoted to Dutch radio! There's one advantage of coming out later: we have been able to include a few highly interesting newsitems just before going to the printer!

And finally: As from the October 1st onwards the following Email address is valid: <freak5@freefr.demon.nl>. The other one <freak5@isamail.nl> remains the same for the time being. Also the site-address will be changing: <www.freak5.nl/home/freak5home.htm>. You may use: <<http://listen.freak5.nl>> as well!

FRS NEWSCORNER

FRS-Holland (Future) Activities

No activities whatsoever took place this Summer. Although we announced a few nighttime trials, we kept silent in the past months. Things will change in October when we plan to celebrate our 15th birthday. This could be the final FRS broadcast at this millennium. Could be because there's still some chance FRS-Holland will hit the airwaves in either November or December.

For the first time since January 24th 1999 FRSH will be active on SW. I can't recall a year there was such long period between two broadcasts!! In the previous edition I tried to explain the situation we were in, so if it's of no use to make any further explanation: Nothing has changed. Hopefully (and that's most important!) October will see the start of a new series of FRS-Holland broadcasts. One thing is for sure: we're ready to rock the bands with the familiar, wide variety of FRS/H programming including our well-known philosophy being "A Balance between Music & Information". Believe me: all of us are motivated the very best in SW Free Radio. At the moment you read this, it's uncertain what date we will hit the airwaves. Normally it would be the 3rd Sunday, but there's a possibility it will take place one or two weeks later. That means most likely FRS-Holland will be on Sunday October 24th or 31st on 48-45 metres on 6240 kHz. FRS will be running between 10.00-14.00 CET or perhaps even a little bit longer. Expect the usual mix of 80s/90s music, a birthday ("millennium") competition and much more. Put it on your calendar and tune in, it'll be a great Sunday and that's a promise! Don't miss, we have something in store! For more info take a look at our website <<http://listen.freak5.nl>>. In addition to the October activities we will carry out one or two nightime trials in the weeks to come. This time it's not perhaps but 100% for sure. Time could take place on either 45 or 26 metres. Time: early in the morning (04.00-05.00 CET) or late in the evening (01.00-02.00 CET). Most likely it'll be a frequency within 48 metres. Of course you will be informed by Email provided your Email address is listed in our SW address book. If not, send an Email to <FRSH@name.com> or <peter.wethuizen@tunipal.nl>.

New Jingles

In October we will introduce our new set of jingles. As we know there are a lot of people enthusiastic among our listening audience, we decided (already one year ago) to produce a *FRS Holland jingle CD*. All jingles between 1980 and 1999 had to be catalogued and archived (on Minidisc), a job part which has now been finished. With this new CD we hope to come with something which is not only any number of FRS jingles but a carefully selected series giving you insight in the eventful FRS jingle history. It's our intention this CD will be the *first of a series*. For details check our site, drop us a line (Herten P.O.Box 2727 address), read the

December FRS Newsletter or listen to our October broadcast when a promo will be aired.

SW FREE RADIO SCENE

General

In this SW section we cover the period late June - September 26th 1999. What made the news? Certainly not the SW propagation which was - as predicted - quite poor during the Summer months. Not a surprise. Following the raid on German Radio Nordsee, two more stations were raided: the Farmers from Holland and Radio AL Int. The latter was *frontpage news* in one of Holland's major daily's!

THE FREE RADIO NEWS

RADIO ALFA LIMA INT. (3) started a series of tests on 19 metres by end of August. August 22nd at 06.30 UTC the station was logged on 15030kHz. However, the "party" wouldn't last for long. The OFC wasn't aware of the fact that 15030 is a freq being used by the British RAF. On August 25th RAL was raided around 07.15 UTC during a transmission on 15030 kHz. The Dutch RDR accompanied by police confiscated broadcasting equipment. Main victim was the huge powerful Rohde & Schwarz Is. Not the complete unit was confiscated but vital parts were taken out. According to an Email received on August 22nd from the RAJ, OP RAL was intending to start regular transmissions on 15 MHz. Is that same Email it was mentioned that the R & S tx was running on 4350W which was not full power being 7500W! RAL has the dubious honour of being the first-ever European SW pirate raided on 19 metres. The reason for the raid is obviously complaints from the RAF. With the powerful tx, RAL was interfering with RAF radio traffic on 15030. As far as we know the RAF warned the Dutch authorities already August 22nd, the day RAL started tests on 15 MHz. You may conclude that immediate action was undertaken and a raid that same day was a near thing. Only because of leaving the airwaves a bit too quick (for the authorities), the raid was postponed for one week. The raid was front page news, one of Holland's major national newspapers, "de Telegraaf" carried an item covering the raid is still Monday August 30th edition. Also the regional "Drenthe Courant" covered the news. The underlying idea is that A) authorities will undertake immediate action in case any pirate is interfering with any major frequency and as a result B) any SW pirate should investigate whether any to far situated tx is safe for testing purposes. Remarkable is that RAL broadcasted for nearly two years almos on a weekly basis on 45 metres without any authority interference. Within one week the station was raided because of using a RAF frequency... Conclusion: the Dutch SW pirates are certainly not on top of the RDR's list! Provided you are not using any vital frequency used by a authority body. One week after the broadcast, Sat Sept. 4th in the evening hours, RAL returned with a new tx on 6290. Sun Sept. 12th an antenna test was held on 6275. For the past two years RAL was a very regular 46 mb bw transmitter on the early Sun evenings. A visit to RAL's website is worth while including photos of the raid, so check out <www.herten-tv/bingelengsopg> or Email: <gjaltersma@frsfreemail.nl>. Some final news: The RAJ OP sent an Email in which he announces to be regularly active in the 15070-15150 kHz. Sun Sept. 19th RAL was on 15070 and on the 26th on 15140 kHz.

RADIO BANDE 27H (3) has been rather inactive during the Summer months. Sun Bande 27th Bandwidth was spotted on 11485 kHz. Sunday Sept. 26th Bandwidth was on 11485 kHz with a good signal. Website at <www.listen.to/bandwidth>.

A lengthy **BIG LD DOCUMENTARY** was heard on 6240/Sun Sep. August 14th & 15th commemorating the 32nd anniversary of the M.O.A. It's unknown which station was behind this nostalgic broadcast. Signal-quality was fair/good on the content.

BRITAIN'S BETTER MUSIC STATION was relayed via Good Music Radio on Saturday 3rd July from 07.00 UTC. Freq was 6280 and the broadcast was put out with no less than 200W. Sun July 11th is the early evening BBMS was heard on 5800 with a country show. This time it was a relay via Orange Radio. Sun August 22nd BBMS was again relayed via GMR; this time on 6199. The station is currently looking for a promoter who can do a Swedish English 60 min. show. Email to <bbms-koenig@compuserve.co>. Add as 55D Chester Rd, London N19 5 DF to the UK.

RADIO BERNELUX was noted on 7480 Sat July 3rd. Four weeks later on Sat July 31st BNL was heard on 6280 with a Merchant Special. Sat August 14th BNL was testing all night long on 6288 kHz. The station was very active during the Level 48 weekend which was Sept. 10th-12th. Add as P.O.Box 5, 8100 AA Raalte in the Netherlands

RADIO BLACKBEARD (10) tested with a power of 50W on 6267 Sat August 7th.

RADIO BLUE STAR is one of Holland's premier powerhouses. During

the Summer period the station was often to be heard on 48 metres. A brief summary: July 11th 6306, Sat August 14th on 6262, Sun August 15th in the late afternoon a new tx was tested either 6262 or 6306. The other freq was running in parallel. August 24th ('Tuesday') Bluestar tested on 11450, a weak signal was heard. On Sat August 28th the station tested on 11450/6239. Sun August 29th Bluestar was on 6262/6305 kHz. Add: P.O.Box 1104 in 8001 BC Zwolle, the Netherlands. Email: <bluestar@imail.nl>.

RADIO BRIGITTE carried out a handful of runs on a variety of freqs: Sat July 3rd 6237, July 4th 6307 and 6907 (1), Sun July 25th 6405, Sun August 1st 6307. Add: P.O.Box 10 in 7594 ZG Ruurlo.

CLCG was on Sun August 15th on 6300 and 6305 with a nice signal. The broadcast started on 6305 but at 09:16 the stations switched to 6300. Add: P.O.Box 540101 in D-47151 Duisburg, Germany.

After a long while inactive **BRITAIN RADIO INT.** (4) was heard on SW. Sun Sept 26th the station was heard on 6239 via JRR (which moved from 6235 to 6239 due to utility interference). We are not sure whether this was an old tape, we guess a weak fresh pass! Hopefully BRIT will return on a regular basis, would be good for the current SW scene. Hopefully more (and positive) news in the December edition.

RADIO COMMUNICATION (1) was heard testing on 6237 in the afternoon of Sun August 29th.

CRAZY WAVE RADIO was heard with a fine signal on 6260 Sun August 8th. The interesting ps featuring station OP Chris Ise, Marc Jones and BNLS Jim Mama. A visit to CWR's website is worth while: <www.manchesterradio.co.uk>.

Rather unique. **RADIO DE TIRI** dedicated its complete August 22nd on 6304 kHz (via Radio-Torvenkab) show to Klaus Köhler from Oberholzhausen, Klaus, a very loyal Dr. Tim listener, sent a total of 50 reception reports to Dr. Tim. A nice way of being thanked!

EUROPEAN MUSIC RADIO will be soon back on the airwaves! March 28th E.M.R. was heard for the last time. It was originally intended to return some time in November but the latest news is that E.M.R. will hit the airwaves early October, our guess: Sunday Oct. 3rd. The E.M.R. programming will include a true 1st flavour of shows presented in Swedish, French, German, Dutch and English. A new English presenter will be heard on E.M.R. During the programme regular brief Free Radio spots will be aired. E.M.R. should be on air for at least 24 hours. Freq could be 6210 kHz. E.M.R. is hoping to receive sufficient listeners' feedback justifying a continuation of SW activation. So, **DROP A LINE** to P.O.Box 2727, 5649 ZG Herten! Sun Sept 19th saw an E.M.R. test on 6306 as early as 06:36 UTC and a week later the station was heard on 6210. The later broadcast could be in preparation of next SWa runs!

RECHI (3) has been very inactive as recent months. No special reason, the OP has simply taken a long summer break. Expect the station back on SW in the upcoming period. Website: <www.jutjen.loeksteinatholland.nl>. Email address: <jutjen@holland.nl>.

THE FARMERS FROM HOLLAND were raided July 11th at 10:49 UTC by the Dutch RDR and police. We were informed that in contrast with previous raids, all studio gear was confiscated, even the CD collection! We have no further details regarding this raid. Fact is that the Farmers didn't have a spare tx and so in a hurry a colleague station was prepared to sell her R&S! If SW is not enough for you, then switch to the Internet and hear them live on Internet: <www.farmersfromholland.com>. Read the instructions and be aware you need a so-called plugin for your Browser (495 kB). This Plug-In can be downloaded on site. Since the end of August the Farmers are on 6288 partly blocking out the religious broadcasts on 6295 SW evenings. Latest news: Sunday Sept. 26th at 13:33 UTC the Farmers were again raided by Dutch authorities! And it seems the RDR/ police are hardening their attitude towards the Farmers witness the fact that all equipment was confiscated including the R&S tx, antennas, all studio-equipment, CDs and MDs and the antenna! Have a look at their website where you can listen to the final 3 % minutes in RealAudio. You can even download as MP3-File! For your archives...

FREE RADIO was heard on 6200 Sun August 15th. Address: P.O.Box 46, 7165 AA Nunspeet in the Netherlands

RADIO FREE LONDON still is one of the most regular SW broadcasters the station was logged Sun June 27th/ July 4th/ 18th/25th/ August 1st/ 15th/ 22nd/ 29th/ Sept 5th/12th. On the 22nd of August only a carrier was needed pointing at some kind of problem?? The addresses are: R.F.L., 1918, Kings Cross Road, London WC1X 9LP or (4). Email: <RFL@Entland.com> or <RadioFreeLondon.org>.

Check out the RFL web sites at <<http://www.93.61.162.100/RFLradio/SI.htm>> or <www.radiofree.londoner.co.uk/>.

RADIO FRESH AIR 2000 was heard on 6243 20:00-21:00 Sun June 26th. 30's mix was played, unfortunately the audio quality was poor. July 1st saw the station on 6243 via Radio Orion!

RADIO GALAXY INT. (10) has been quite active in July. Sun June 27th a live evening show was heard on 6306. Power was 30W. July 1st, a Thursday, Galaxy Int. was heard on 6275. Sat July 10th 6306 was in

use with a phone-in show. Galaxy Int. is part of the Free Radio Network, using two txs: one 30 watt mobile rig, with an 807 valve and a 130W Heathkit tuner running from 240v mains. The 30 watt tx is powered by two car batteries in series producing 24V linked to an Inverter, providing the 450W HT. The antenna, which is erected on site at the time of the broadcast between two trees, is about 20ft in height at the centre. The signal is fed with 75 ohm coax. All Galaxy programmes are live on location from motor vehicles and set up on the night of the broadcast. The two main principal operators are Dave Noms from Radio Blackboard, and Paul Stewart from Station Sierra Sierra, and on occasions, Mark Perry from an FM Pirate Station. All ps are live. Email add: <0402229197@msn.com.co.uk> (on site) and <Pirate99@hotmail.com>. You should look for the station on 6306 kHz or on 76 metres during Thursday evening/night and into weekend nights.

RADIO GERONIMO from the UK put out a 30 min test Sun August 1st around 12:00 UTC using 6260 kHz, then switching to 7460 kHz for a few minutes. August 19th Geronimo was logged on 4760 kHz at 19:40 UTC. Further tests should go on in the evenings on 60 metres on 4760, 4790, 4840, 4860, 4875 or 4890 kHz. Try also 31 metres within the 9350-9390 kHz range during night or dusk. Sunday tests are mainly on 48 & 41 metres. Geronimo is making use of a low-powered 25 watts tx fed into a 4 metre whip aerial. Soon the station will have a UK-based address. For the time being you should write to: P.O.Box 2727, 6940 ZG Heren! There is an Email address <radio-geronimo@hotmail.com>.

GOOD MUSIC RADIO can be heard so now and then on 6199 kHz. For instance on Sun Sept. 12th when a fair signal was heard on the continent. GMK can make use of 6199 every other Sunday. In such case Ozone Radio is switching to 5795 kHz.

SWISS STATION INTERNATIONAL MUSIC RADIO was heard a number of times on SW in recent weeks. Sept. 5th IMR was heard on 7400U using 100W of power. Address: P.O.Box 1951, D-79554 Weil am Rhein in Germany.

The **IRRS** from Italy is still active relaying SW Free Radio stations. Pas are going out on 7120 & 3985. One of the new stations relayed via the IRRS is Radio Maternher making its debut on Sat June 26th on 3985 and 7120. The px was repeated during several occasions.

JOLLY ROGER RADIO has signed up on internet. You can contact Joe Vincent via Email: <jmr@irland.com>. Some comment from JRR: "Some of the Dutch stations have broadcast rigs on top of as in the past, and we do not want this to happen again. As we see 62.5MHz on a continuous basis, we offer a relay to any other FR station over our transverter on 62.5MHz."

On August 26th & 29th RADIO JOYSTICK celebrated 14 years of radio activity and was heard on 6261 (24 hours via RFL) via the facilities of RFL. The same day Joystick was also active via the IRRS on 3985 & 7120 (2 hours each). Radio Joystick started in the 1985 Summer. During the birthday show, "Peaky Music" was played. In addition station history and birthdays show radio bands which used to be a well-known German SW station (1980s). Email: <sharet@adsl.com>, Snailmail: P.O.Box 100812 in D-4540 Melleum an Ruhr in Germany.

RADIO KOKAR INT. is Holland's 1st broadcaster on 76 kHz. Since Sat June 26th the station was noted every Sat evening on 3910!! That means no less than 14 weeks in a row!! The station's programming is live playing a wide variety of pop oldies, signal-quality is excellent. Address is P.O.Box 134, 1720 XW Veenhuizen in the Netherlands.

LASER HOT HITS continues with weekly professionally produced pop-oriented shows on 6258 (via IRRS), 6219, and also irregularly on 7415 kHz. Pas are possibly emanating from an Irish site. Sept. 26th saw the station on 7415/6219 and also on 6239 (JRR) and 6300/6400 dd (8).

LEVEL 48 (P.O.Box 5, 8100 AA Raalte, the Netherlands) is by now a familiar name among SW enthusiasts. A few times a year, the SW bands are ruled by Level 48 signals, produced by several SW stations and emanating from a wide variety of sites. Friday 10th, Sat 11th and Sunday Sept. 12th was a typical Level 48 weekend. It was in the early Fr evening at 19:00 UTC that Dutch powerhouses Spaceman kicked off on 3905, followed by a joint CWR/ BNL phone-in broadcast at 22:00 UTC on the same channel. Interesting to know, was the fact that the OPs of UK-based LWR and WMS were guests in the Spaceman studio. Saturday Level 48 commenced with on 43 & 41 meters starting at or just after 08:00 UTC. Most of the broadcasts were carried out on or close to 6245 kHz. In addition 6261 & 6275 were used. On 41 metres the Level 48 net was monitored on 7485. Noted were CWR, BNL, Rising Star, SWRS 7485 & 6245, Speedwing, Radio Borderhunter & Torvenkab among others. In the evenings, hours 3905, was again used by Spaceman, Torvenkab and CWR/ BNL. The 3rd day of the massive air attack started as early as 06:00 UTC on 6262, 6245 & 6260 were used most frequently that day. Tom Arnon and Radio Fusion were among the stations being active on behalf of Level 48 (apart from the afore-mentioned cast)! Bad luck for Radio Borderhunter: on Sat the 12th (at that moment on 41 metres) set fire, the PA of a new tx did the same on Sunday! It's certainly positive that so many stations operate under one umbrella. An interesting note is that a place that only very few fops are occupied during a Level 48 weekend. This is of course easy for the



listeners but also indicates Level 4 has respect for colleague SW stations! German **RADIO LIPSTICK** have a new site to be found at their address: < www.radiolipstick.de/ >

LIVE WIRE RADIO returned on SW 3905 Sat night August 14th/15th. Although it was supposed the station was testing with 20W, we know better. Sat August 15th Live Wire Radio was heard on 3945. Sat Sept. 15th saw a further test on 3936, this time with low power! Add is 64 Brighton Rd, Leicester LE5 0HA in the UK.

RADIO MARABU was heard a number of times on 6210. This was the case for instance on Sun Sept. 19th, Fri Sept. 24th and Sat the 25th. Signal-quality is mostly fair/good. PAs are professionally produced with a wide variety of independent alternative music. Marabu transmits over various AM & FM relays all over Europe. Address is Box 1166, D-49187 Bielefeld Germany. Email: < www.medialab.de/marabu@arpu >

The 1999 edition of the **MERCHWEILER DX-CAMP** was visited by a great number of stations including Benxus, Spaceman, Perlekt, Fusion, CWR, Dr. Tim Torevavlk, Wonderful, Bermuda Deesek, Little Star, IMR, Laguna, Sud-West Radio (not active anymore), Flamingo, Stardust, Star Club Radio, Record Radio, SWRS, Breakdown, Barones, Pollakwell, Flawon, PTT, Team Khaznach, Noname, Asterix, Dexno, Friendship, Obelix, Materhorn. Tax to Dr. Tim for this list.

RADIO NEW WORLD (collaborations Torevavlk / Torenvalk) tested on 6270 in the late afternoon of Sat July 3rd. Sun July 4th New World was on 6281.08304 kHz. Due to interference from the Farmers a switch was made from 6281 to 6261. Address P.O.Box 94 in 7038 ZH Zürich or P.O.Box 21 to 7010 AA Gaanderen.

NORTHERN MUSIC RADIO (10) was heard on Sun August 29th 6274. Sat August 25th **RADIO NORTHESEA RSL** was heard on 6206 kHz in the evening hours. It was a relay from the flagship Mebo 3 broadcasting off Clacton-on-Sea on 1575 kHz in August. No idea which station was responsible for this relay... Who can help us?

A Dutch station calling itself **ROTA NOVA** was heard Sat Aug 28th and Sept 11th on 3935. The station has been off air for a while but from now on irregular gas will be put out on 76 metres. Add is P.O.Box 128, NL-9410 AC Beilen.

OZONE RADIO was noted with a modulation test on 6258 Tuesday July 6th Sun August 8th 5797 was in use and earlier that day also 6192. Add: see BBMS.

RADIO PANDORA (10) was heard on various freqs during a number of July weekends. Sun July 4th 6207, July 10th 6226, July 11th 6207, August 15th 6255. During the latter occasion Pandora celebrated 4 years of SW broadcasts. Congratulations! Sat Sept. 18th the birthday broadcast was repeated on 3905 via the SWRS in Italy.

PIRATE CONNECTION now has two Email addresses: < Pirate@Pirateall.com > and the old < Pirate@pirate-radio.com >. Thursday August 5th in the evening hours **RADIO POLDERPIRATAA** was monitored on 6301 kHz. The station's CP makes use of a Collins TX capable of 1.6 kW (11) output but as far as power was limited to a "mess" 350W. Poldepirata started in 1983 on 1602 AM under the name Trackstar. At present time the station can be heard every 3rd Sun on 1614 kHz and every 1st Sun on 6300. Address: RPP, P.O.Box 2417, 8205 AK Leyland, Sun August 8th saw RPP on 6100 kHz.

RADIO PTT is a joint venture run by 3 stations: Radio Perlekt, Dr. Tim and Torevavlk. Some time ago 6254 kHz was used via Radio Torevavlk's powerful outlet. Address: see Radio Torevavlk.

ROCK-IT RADIO have a new website. They are still netcasting 24 hours a day in real audio. They are also being relayed at time of shortwave via the SWRS. Website: < www.rockitradio.net >.

SCANDINAVIAN LIGHTHOUSE (1) made its 6240 Sun July 25th. The station's signal emanating from Scandinavia bridged a distance of no less than 1500 km being received in Germany!

Sun August 29th saw **SKYLINE** testing on 6205 kHz. Email address: < Skylines@hotmail.com >.

With a handful of broadcasts German **STAR CLUB RADIO** (1) celebrated its 10th birthday. Congratulations! On August 27th SCR was relayed via the SWRS on 7465 and 1470U. Officially the 10th birthday was celebrated Sun August 22nd with a 60 min show hosted by station founder Roy Clark. The programme was put out by Radio Torevavlk on 6304 kHz. Sun August 22nd SCR was also relayed by BNL on 6260. Sat August 28th saw the station on 3941 kHz. Sun Sept 5th 6300 was in use with a Beatles special. A Doctor special was announced for the year 2000. Monday Sept. 6th SCR was active on 3906U with a repeat of the birthday show. This time it was relay via IMR, SCR, The Voice of Germany-offered special birthday QSLs for its 10th birthday broadcasts.

STATION M INTERNATIONAL which was active during the 20z/21z, wants to return on SW. Regular broadcasts were planned, but station engineer Tom Lodge sadly died at the age of 44 in July of this year. Now, Station M International is looking for a fresh relay from Europe to put out a Tom Lodge tribute. Email: < Friedberg@t1.ringins.de >.

SWRS is active most weekends relaying a great number of Int. SW Prog

Radio stations. During a number of occasions in July 21800U was being used. Sat July 10th - Sun July 11th saw the relay of a new station Highlands Classic Rock. Other newcomers are WPOE being heard Sat July 24th, **HMKM'S Subtreasure** on Sun August 28th and Harold Krishna's Music on Fri Sept. 3rd. SWRS can be reached via e/o Play DX, Via Davanzoli 8, IT-20135 Milano, Italy, or by Email: < gams@usa.net >. Homepage: < listen-to-sws.com >.

Sunday Sept. 12th **RADIO TORENVALK** put out a programme in which the Of expressed his personal view about the current state of the Free Radio issue. He stated that the audience of Dutch polka stations are mainly other operators of such type of stations, 70% of those who write have written before and the remaining 30% are QSL-hunters. He also said that (and this is interesting!) Free Radio stations must bring a different type of programming compared to legal stations justifying their existence. But, most stations are not able to bring any different format. In his view a lot of stations don't take Free Radio for serious. Just look at some powerhouses plastering all over the band and even interfering with each other. It's sad to say but it seems to be the truth! Address P.O.Box 94, 7038 ZH in Zürich. Sat Sept. 12th **TRANSATLANTIC RADIO** tested on 3910 with non-stop music and a good signal. The station has been fairly inactive during the Summer period. One day later TAR was noted on 6296 kHz. Add is P.O.Box 4427 in 3006 AK Rotterdam.

UK RADIO continues on 6266 and in addition was heard a few times on 6243 kHz. Audio is often too low. Add is P.O.Box 53, Blisstone WV14 6YS, Wolverhampton, UK.

UNION RADIO is now using P.O.Box 663, 7500 AR in Hoogeveen. No more confusion, hallelujah! During the whole Summer period Union remained silent, regular SW tests will soon recommence. A lengthy test was aired on 6210 Sun August 15th. In addition the station tested with a strong signal on 6222 kHz Sun Sept. 19th and on 6210 Sun Sept. 26th.

VOGELFREIES RADIOS is a kind of Internet online magazine and the current update justifies a visit to this interesting site < www.vogelfreies-radio.de >.

VOICE OF THE NETHERLANDS (3) was heard on Sat July 3rd on 6286 and on July 4th on 7484 kHz. During the latter broadcast the big Q was used giving an output of several hundred watts. Sat July 24th 6280 was in use (100W) and Sun Sept. 5th 6270 kHz. Email: < votn@freemail.nl >.

RADIO WAVES INT. (4) was putting out pax on 7450 kHz Sun July 11th. Sun Sept. 26th RWI was heard on good old 11401 kHz. Soon (November) the station will be celebrating its anniversary.

WEEKEND MUSIC RADIO can be regularly heard on 7460 kHz. During the following dates WMR was active on 41 metres: Sun June 27th/July 11th / July 25th Sat August 14th & 15th Sun August 29th/ Sun Sept. 12th. Power is unknown but certainly not as high as it used to be some years ago. Signal on the continent varies between poor and fair. Sun Sept. 26th WMR was heard all day long. At 1410 UTC 7460 was switched off and the station reappeared on 7465 kHz.

WGFP stands for **WE GO FOR PIRACY** (10) and was noted with a test on 6227 Sun June 27th. It is said power was in the region of 250W. No further details.

RADIO WONDERFUL was noted on 3925 Sat Sept. 11th and Sun 12th on 6261 and 6216 (not in 10). Wonderful was heard celebrating its 5th anniversary. Congratulations! Sat Sept. 15th saw more repeats of the birthday shows on 3941 and 3985 kHz. The station can be reached via < Wonderful52@hotmail.com >. Saarmail add is P.O.Box 520112 in D-4420 Dortmund, Germany.

OFFSHORE NEWS

August is for many offshore fans a very special and often emotional month and 1999 was even more special than other years because it was 25 years ago that the offshore radio stations Radio Veronica, Northsea and Atlantic were forced to close down. The infamous Treaty of Strassburg made as bad on 14 years of offshore radio off the Dutch coast. To celebrate this 25th anniversary, two former offshore stations were active in August. R.N.I. (English Service) off Clacton-on-Sea and Radio Veronica is Hilversum² in addition former offshore station Radio Caroline was on the air in Southeast(28 day RSL). Three former offshore stations at the same time active, quite unique! FRS Newsletter (and its predecessor, FRS DX) had a reputation when it comes to Offshore Radio. Therefore in this September edition a comprehensive summary of what happened with RNI & Caroline and in parallel with Radio Veronica!

RADIO CAROLINE

Monday July 26th Radio Caroline commenced transmission on 1503 kHz for a 28-day period. The Rock Revenge was moored at the end of the famous Southeast pier, the longest in its kind in Europe. Officially power is limited to a mere watt (ONE Watt) but only 35 minutes after the start of transmission was audible in Groningen in the very northern part of the

Netherlands. As far as we know power was much higher although this was not the case during the full 4 week period. Two spare txs were needed to make sure the Caroline signal continued on 1503. Both txs were hot by lightning! The 3rd tx which was used during the final part of the RSL had only a capacity of 40W.

According to station-manager Peter Moore the 1503 RSL was successful. Many visitors came aboard the Ross to take a look. There were guided tours, sometimes three at the same time! On board also a Caroline shop with a range of T-Shirts, posters etc. Great stuff for the Caroline supporter and prices were fair. During most weekends Caroline's signal was to be heard via two cutters: the 1503 AM RSL and the satellite outlet (each Sat & Sun 09:00-22:00 CEST). A few times the satellite output was rebroadcasted from the ship but most 1503 output was presented live from the ship by a number of jocks (Steve Conway, Steve Foster, Sarah Miles among others). August 14th, a very special day in British offshore radio history, a number of special px were presented by Radio Caroline. The satellite output that day was different from what came from the Ross. In particular Mark Stafford's 4 hour 16:00-20:00 CEST M.O.A. special was worth listening to. The px contained an interview with Martin Kayne (Caroline North), many offshore extracts etc. And not to forget great 60's music! The satellite signal was picked up in Lithuania and rebroadcasted on SW 5953 kHz with no less than 100 kW!

Thursday August 15th it was 10 years ago that the following announcement was heard on 556 kHz AM around midday: *"This is Radio Caroline, the radioship Ross Revenge, anchored in the International waters of the Norwegian Sea. This is a Norwegian vessel being boarded allegedly on behalf of the British and Dutch governments. There's a flag dispute and they have already boarded the ship and used violence against crew members."* The complete studio equipment and vital parts of the tx were confiscated, parts of the tx were destroyed. 18 months later the Dutch OCD returned the confiscated equipment. Coincidentally two 1 kW FM txs were among the returned items. Caroline ended its successful on Sunday August 22nd at 00:00 BST. During the final day live px were aired all day on 1503 kHz including the voices of Sean Miles, David Foster and Steve Conway. They all did a great job but also the volunteers on the ship doing the guided tours and other work. Station-manager Peter Moore was among the crew on the Ross Revenge during the final weekend. The Ross could be visited at the end of the px until the end of September. Caroline's website: <www.radiocaroline.co.uk>.

RADIO VERONICA: the SUCCESSFUL 1999 REVIVAL

The first rumoured Preparations

August 1999 saw the 25th anniversary of the Dutch Treaty of Sarpsborg, the Dutch equivalent of the British M.O.A. Of course, there would be some festivities to commemorate this anniversary but no-one expected an eleven day return of Radio Veronica! Indeed, more than that: most people didn't know the Dutch media law allows people to apply for a special broadcasting licence. Of course, we all know the British RSL lasting 25 days. Such RSL can be used for either AM or FM broadcast purposes but in all cases with very low power. To cut a long story short: it looked like an implausible story while the first rumours went round about an 11 day Veronica revival on the good old medium wave. The first reports reached us early July. Good news on the on the 21st when it was announced that the project would be definitely taking place between August 21st and 31st. The vast majority of the programming would consist of rebroadcasting old studio tapes, coming from a vast archive run by former employee Ad Bouman. Just Goleck and offshore enthusiasts Haas Koot and Jelle Boosstra. Many former Veronica staff promised to take part in this revival, most of them were wildly enthusiastic about the upcoming transmissions. Key-figure was Ad Bouman. Veronica programme-engineer between 1965 and 1974 and Michael Bakker who's managing-director of Radio Goostland, a regional commercial radiostation broadcasting from Hilversum. A number of former Veronica presenters present shows on Goostland and several Goostland personnel helped during the 11-day revival. Many hours of tapes were listened to and selected and schedules had to be put together; which old studio-tape would be broadcasted on what daytime. Some of the old stuff was on DAT and was re-recorded on MD. A number of people worked day and night to listen to all that nostalgia selecting the right tapes for broadcasting purposes etc.

Frequencies

The RDR, based in Groningen, is the Dutch body responsible for allocating frequencies. The "Commissie voor de Media" granted permission for a so-called Special Event Licence. The Dutch Nozems, responsible for running all TV, AM, SW and FM txs have a 5 kW tx which can be put into service for special events. The tx, tuned to SBS kHz, is located at the Lopik site in the Central part of the Netherlands. However, SBS AM, is not allocated to the Netherlands and the RDR refused to release SBS for broadcasting purposes. Even though SBS is a clear channel not used by the country it is allocated to. That a new freq had to be found. Originally Veronica was only allowed to broadcast for the province of Utrecht and the greater Leiden area (Leiden is the capital of the province of Friesland in the northern part of the

Netherlands). That would imply that two different txs would be running on two different frequencies. The massive publicity however in the Netherlands made clear that many, many people living in all corners of the country would like to receive Veronica's AM signal. The RDR, responsible for allocating the frequency, advised the initiators of the project to talk to Q-Radio's Peter Jansen asking him for permission to make use of Q-Radio's 5 kW spare tx located in Lopik. This tx is tuned to 1224 kHz just like Q-Radio's main 45 kW main tx aboard the Communicator. Fact was that 1224 AM was NOT used by Q-radio since July... So the Communicator was silent. In the end no application for a licence was submitted in the name of Q-Radio. Sunday August 15th the news reached us that it was (almost) certain that Veronica was allowed to use 1224 kHz with 5 kW. A few days later it was definitely decided the 1224 kHz freq could be used for the 11-day period. The news of the temporary Veronica revival is also to be read in British newspapers. In one publication 1242 is mentioned instead of 1224. The Iavicta Radio engineer Stuart Vint almost got a nervous breakdown...

The First Tests/Problems

On August 13th, the first tests on 1224 kHz were commenced. A loop tape with the sound of seagulls was continuously played... this gave many offshore enthusiasts a warm, nostalgic feeling and made their skin crawl! This first test went out with only 1 kW. In most parts of the Netherlands a fair to good signal apart from the north. Also in Genk, Belgium a satisfactory signal. The use of an Orbits 9200 Optimus AM processor meant a 4 to 5 dB gain, an improved modulation quality and louder reception. On Wednesday August 18th, tests were continued. A French listener (also reader of this newsletter) picked up the signal. August 19th more tests, in particular the need for between Lopikshoek studios and the tx in Lopik. Not only seagulls but also non-stop-oddes were aired. In Essex and Kent reception was ok in Scotland fair, in Belgium and parts of Germany a good signal. On August 20th tests were resumed at 23:30 CEST. What many couldn't know was that the start the next day - the 21st of August - hung by a thread! Without going into detail, the essence of the problem was that a number of agreements which had been made with several authorities, were not in accordance with the normal procedures. One example: the use of the 1224 kHz Q-Radio frequency. Q-Radio was off air as far as terrestrial broadcast was concerned, the station was only audible via cable networks but at the moment any signal would be aired on 1224 - the official Q-Radio frequency, thus signal had to be in parallel with the cable output. That was not the case, Veronica's output would be totally different from Q-Radio's cable signal. To cut a long story short, at 23:15 CEST Veronica got its definitive permission to start broadcasts the next day. That same evening three Veronica persons - Ad Bouman, Tinneke & Joost den Draaijer - were interviewed in the M2 show on Dutch TV2.

The First Day

Saturday August 21st 07:00 the sound of offshore radio relived on 1224 kHz. Reception was very satisfactory in the Benelux but also in parts of other countries. In Clacton-on-Sea at the UK south-east coast, reception was fine. The first live show and at the same time the official opening was at noon with Tinneke (well-known female presenter on Veronica), Joost den Draaijer (Godfather of the Dutch deejays) and station-controller Bull Verweij, aged 89 (!) but still a hale and hearty personality, behind the MD-421 Schenck microphone. They were reminiscing about the good old days, that was the same in most other muddy live shows in which former presenters acted as guests.

The start/ format

Veronica was on the air 24 hours a day using the slogan "Radio Veronica, 14 years" of leading radio. As already mentioned: most of the programmes being aired on 1224 kHz were old studio-tapes which were in an excellent condition! Veronica was permitted to air the old tapes including commercials, even when some of the advertised products are still sold in shops (for instance a number of cigarette brands). In addition a great number of 1999 commercial songs were booked. August 25th, right in the middle of the 11-day revival the Dutch Commissaris voor de Media decided that yet all tobacco commercials had to disappear. Result: all scheduled studio programme tapes had to be monitored looking for tobacco commercials. Veronica solved the "problem" by inserting the sound of seagulls at the moment a tobacco commercial was played in any of the old shows.

Every day between 12:00-14:00 CEST live pxs were hosted by former Veronica employees. On some days also between 14:00-16:00 hours. Every evening between 20:00-22:00 a special was broadcasted: a show about the Veronica jingle history, singing Veronica deejays (a number had a short-lived singing career), the soundscapes, History of Offshore Radio, the Adje Bouman Top 10 (a very famous programme within a programme), the Veronica programme engineers etc. Very interesting! In the Mon August 23rd live show between 20:00-22:00 about singing deejays very obscure staff was being played. For instance a Dutch remake of "We love the pirate stations". Listening to the radio, hearing the live shows, you could clearly hear the background noise of the visitors in the studio, present in large numbers. Wednesday August 25th between 8 and



10 in the evening attention is paid to "the other offshore radio stations. The history of Offshore Radio is a must. Many unique records from the 60s, extracts, jingles... Thursday August 26th between 20 and 21 hours a survey of the history of the radio jingle. In the next hour the history of the Veronica jingles. Great stuff for any keen radio enthusiast! Guests in the studio: Jelle Boenstra ("Society radio jingles and themes"), Ren Groot (Top Format Productions and former RNI presenter Hans "Mr. Jingle" Hoogendoorn. Between 07.00 and 18.00 hours newsletters were to be heard. As an extra service Veronica brought some news from a particular year between 1960 and 1974. Every time an old tape was going to be played, a promo with the very familiar voice of Tom Collas (former Veronica jock) was heard announcing the following text: "Radio Veronica, 14 years of leading radio. You're going to listen to a historic programme. All situations, names, news and commercials are not applicable."

Location/Equipment

The Veronica's came from the basement of Hotel Lagerhoek situated in Hilversum where once the Veronica studios were housed. A nostalgic location. The studio consisted of mainly studio equipment used in the Veronica landstudies before 1974: An old Philips mixing console, Akai tape recorders.

The Norderney Foundation has been founded by Ad Beuman. It's main purpose is to carefully take all the Veronica equipment and bring it back in the best possible condition. The Foundation possesses several tapemachines, mixing desks, microphones and record decks.

Gated record decks, stainless microphones, in those days sophisticated gear! Modern equipment was also there: two CD players, an extra mixing console and an MD player. There were plans to have also a number of live tape being broadcasted from the good spot Norderney but in the end it appeared to be too expensive. Too bad because the Norderney was Veronica's figurehead and ship from the mid 60s till the end in 1974. By the way: the Norderney has a new fresh layer of paint. The ship is anchored in Leeuwarden, Friesland.

Visitors

During the complete period of broadcasts except the final day (Tuesday August 31st) former Veronica supporters could attend the studios in the basement of the hotel. More than 10,000 visitors were counted in the end! Veronica T-Shirts and posters were reprinted, all was for sale in a Veronica stand. And... as a result of the great success the foundation Vrienden van Veronica (Friends of Veronica) has been founded. Address: the old (?) Veronica address bang P.O.Box 2116 in Hilversum. Purpose of the Foundation is to organize annual meetings, exhibitions, reprinting posters, stickers, T-Shirts etc.

Responses from Listeners

Response was overwhelming. From all corners of the world. Thanks to the Internet, many Dutchmen abroad were able to listen. A great number of emails, faxes, it was unbelievable how many emotions were stirred up. And then all the hundreds of messages in the newsgroup <NL_Media.Radio>. But in the first place of course the 10,000+ visitors who travelled to Hilversum to take a look in the Veronica studio. It is perhaps a bit far-fetched but certainly true: many Veronica listeners lived it a haze during those 11 days.

Press/Media Coverage

Several Dutch national newspapers paid attention to the Veronica broadcasts. This resulted in full-page articles! Also TV and radio covered the reveal. On the first day of broadcasts, no less than 4 TV crews were shooting pictures.

On the internet, photos are to be seen via the well-known professional quality site of Martin van der Ven: <<http://www.offshore-radio.de>> but also pictures of the tx, the Lopik site and 85 metre antenna tower via the Neurona site: <<http://www.neurona.nl>>

Arrow Classic Rock/Internet

Joost den Driess, the one who introduced the top 40 on Veronica early 1965, was so enthused that he decided to re-broadcast each night two hours of (mainly live) Veronica via Arrow Classic Rock. Just for your information, he's the man ACR shareholder! ACR broadcasts on 928 kHz 24 hours a day 7 days a week with the best in classic rock. Between Monday August 23rd and Wednesday September 1st ACR repeated two hours of Veronica each night between 00.00-02.00 CEST. For the those tapes: pas as unique chance provided they could catch Arrow via cable! In that case the quality of the recordings was superb! Also via the Internet the Veronica broadcasts were to be heard, day in, day out, 24 hours.

Some names

So many former Veronicans people took part: Ad Beuman (organizer), Eddie Becker, Chiel Montague, Lex Harting, Timke, Joost den Driess, Gerard de Vries, Ansjeuk, Dick Klek, Bart van Leeuwen, Krijn Tonring, Tom Mulder, Tom Collas, Jan van Veen, Jaap Gelecek, Sietse Grootenhuis, Dick Brod, Joe Hooge, Jure van Beens, Ruud Westbroek, Arend Laagberg, Arie Veenstra, Nel Vis, Ruud Doets, Robbie Rutten. The latter was not able to come to Hilversum but was interviewed via telephone. Nowadays Robbie is running his business from Spain.

The final day

Saturday August 31st 1974 Radio Veronica closed down on 538m at exactly 18.00 hours. August 31st 1999 the close down of the 11-day revival was at the same time as it was 25 years ago 18.00 hours. During that Tuesday no visitors were allowed in the studio. Admission was by invitation only: former staff and a handful of guests. The final Veronica Tippende from August 31st 1974 was repeated (containing farewell messages of many famous Dutch artists) and between 13.00-14.00 a repeat of Veronica's final hour presented by former programme-controller Rob Out. Between 14.00-18.00 a live reunion party was broadcasted in which many of the former presenters and programme-engineers played an active role. Pure nostalgia! And... a great atmosphere in Hotel Lagerhoek. Old anecdotes monopolized conversations between former colleagues. The final record was "Family Affair" by Styx and the Family Stone. According to Ad Beuman the old Veronica (as an offshore station) was one big family. At 18.00 CEST Veronica closed down with that same jingle which ended Veronica's offhours period in 1974. Only... this time all people in the studio were singing along with the familiar filler: Veronica... Veronica... Veronica... Veronica... no tears, everyone felt good. It had been eleven fantastic days. No-one had expected such a massive support from listeners and the media. Thousands enjoyed the nostalgia coming out of their radios from a station which once was their favourite. A more worthy celebration of the 25th anniversary of the close down of Radio Veronica was hardly imaginable.

HET STREELEN TIJDPERK

British Dutch radio station Radio 2 (equivalent of BBC 2) putting out a MOR format, paid attention to a number of famous radio stations at July and August. Every Sunday afternoon between 14.00-16.00 Streele Tijdperk rules the FM airwaves. No doubt it's the best Dutch oldies show not only because of the musical output but also because of the wealth of data. Often the pit is used as an artist or musical topic. Starting on Sunday 16th a series of radio station specials were aired. On the 18th Radio Caroline, a week later Radio Luxembourg, August 1st Radio London, on the 15th Radio Veronica 3 (started in 1965 as Radio Veronica's counterpart), on the 15th radio Northsea and finally on the 22nd Radio Veronica. An excellent series including great music, pit extracts, jingles/interviews and above all valuable background info. FRS Sales Productions offers tapes including all (5) specials. Website: <www.ams-streele@pvtspk>.

RADIO NOORDZEE

Tuesday August 31st the former presenting staff of R.N.J. Dutch Service had a reunion in the building of Streele in Naarden. Especially for this occasion a scalemodel of the Melbo II was transported from the Dutch Omroepgebouw to the Streele building. For those who do not know what Streele stands for: it is a media publishing company responsible for running the Dutch R.N.J. service in the period 1970-1974.

R.N.J. JINGLE CD

At the end of August we received the following Email announcing the introduction of a brandnew jingle CD.

"Dear jingle-lover,

On August 31 1999 the "Society radio jingles and themes" again brings out a very unique CD. The title: >"Radio Northsea International - jingles 1970 - 1974". This letter is meant to inform you about that CD and how to order this definitive collection Radio Northsea Jingles, digital remastered on CD. In a search lasting several months the Society discovered a great amount of masters and session-tapes from the Northsea-jingles. We compiled a CD from it which contains very unique recordings, which we release in our management. Some jingles were even never heard on the former pirate station Radio Northsea itself! The CD is released with the approval of the (by that time) owner of Radio Northsea International: Streele in Naarden (Holland/The Netherlands). That CD (56 minutes long) is not for sale in any kind of shop inside or outside the Netherlands, but is only for sale at the Society radio jingles and themes. On this CD you can listen to the first sung R.N.J. jingles, productions from Ferry Maat, Bolland & Bolland, unique on board-material from Haas Hoogendoorn, jingles recorded by The Dixie Brothers, the original Trenzertjie jingle, the Sovovox jingles from Ken Jussus (USA), these complete singlepackages "Ook in dit auto", "Prijphewest" and "Goud", the very last Northsea promo: "Radio Northsea International jingles 1970 - 1974" is an exclusive release from the Society radio jingles and themes.

How to order

Outside The Netherlands: Please send ONLY CASH MONEY BY REGISTERED MAIL to: *The Society Radio Jingles and Themes, Renzo Roosjen, Blauweijer 79, 4814 TR Breda, The Netherlands*.

Don't forget to write down your own name and address and the country. Please allow us 14 working days for guaranteed delivery. The price of these unique CDs 10 British Pounds/ 20 US Dollars (5) 100 French Francs (FrFr) 35 German Marks (DM) 650 Belgian Francs (Bfr). Post & packaging is included. Order now, the edition is limited! With warm regards from the Netherlands. That's what we wanted you to know. We hope you don't mind us telling you that. Warm regards, Jelle Boenstra, Renzo Roosjen, Maarten Schutjes, Society Radio Jingles and Themes, The Netherlands."

RADIO NORTHSEA INT. RSL IN AUGUST

In issue 22 we published a lot of info regarding the RNI project. Here's a supplement. Monday July 19th work on the Lightship #1E, renamed in Mebo 3 and converted into a radio vessel, was nearly completed. At last a new antenna tower was erected and it was hoped to sail to its mooring on Thursday July 29th. Many local and nationally known companies gave their support to RNI who were on air to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the RNLI (Royal National Lifeboat Institution), Tuesday August 3rd at midnight Alan West opened up RNI's 1575 broadcasts. A revival of the English language broadcasts as they were broadcasted in the 1970 summer. The Mebo 3 vessel was not anchored off Clacton-on-Sea. A few days earlier the Safety Agency didn't give permission to sail the ship to open seas as she was not seaworthy. And so the start of the project came from Harwich harbour. And yes, within 60 minutes the RNI signal was received in the northern part of the Netherlands. One was I hear you say? After 13 hours of broadcasts RNI is forced to leave the airwaves. Reason: the broadcast license in combination with the frequency of 1575 kHz was issued for broadcasting from an exact position off Clacton. Not for broadcasts from a harbour! The broadcasts were an invasion of the conditions formulated by the Radio Authority. And if this was not enough there was also a second problem: RNI was broadcasting off channel. Caroline people advised organizer Paul Graham not to anchor off Clacton. The Ross Revenge was moored off Clacton in 1995 and had serious problems with the steering to the ship. Paul was advised to moor the ship at the end of the pier in Clacton. But Paul really wanted to get out on the high seas and was determined to do so. In the end the ship could sail to the original position off Clacton and during the Tuesday evening news 20.00 hour news it was said that the ship now was at its predetermined position. The failed start was in one way positive: RNL was in the news... Reception at the Dutch westcoast was fine, especially when using a loop aerial. It was intended to have the 1575 kHz signal rebroadcast on 1584 via a commercial regional Dutch station and 7415 by Aller Weizer's W3QZC. 1584 remained silent during the 28-day RSL period. A little thought: how would be possible to deliver a quality AM signal to Utrecht where the 1584 is located? August 14th, an outstanding day to commemorate the past, RNI came up with a comprehensive history of the stations with extracts. This story will be soon (?) available via the website East Anglia Productions. Bob Letton (who also read the news that day) produced a special about Fort-based radio in the 1960s. Several familiar names were said to take part in the RSL broadcasts: Alan West, Bob Noakes, Dave Rodgers, Martin Kayne, Andy Archer, Robin Banks, Roger Day, Mark Wesley (all former RNI jocks), Kevin Turner, Paul McLean, Ray Anderson, Dennis Jason Bob Le Roux, Paul Graham, Phil Mitchell, Normas Barrington and Dick Palmer. In the end many didn't turn up for different reasons. Sad but true. Alan West left the project mid-August due to internal difficulties regarding the format. Peter Verbrugghen visited Clacton-on-Sea August 22nd and talked to EAP's Ray Anderson who was on the famous Clacton pier where EAP had a sales stand selling all kind of memorabilia. He admitted that this RSL had much less impact than the Radio London one two years ago. Much less publicity was given to this RSL and when walking in Clacton nothing reminded one to the RNI broadcast 2 miles off the coast. From PW's hotel he could easily view the little red ship, PW and two friends made a little trip to the ship that Saturday when the sea was very calm. For about 60 minutes he was aboard the Mebo III and had a look in the studios and other parts of the ship. It all looked quite impressive, you could see a lot of work had been carried out to convert the former Lightship into a broadcasting vessel. In the studio no CD players but two record decks, a Gaisler mixer and cartridge machines. Most stuff was played from singles and albums and the playlist was exactly the same as it was in that same weeks 29 years ago (summer of 1970). Although the ship was visited by several enthusiasts, it just did not have that impact the Big L project certainly had! Too bad... It remains a fact Paul Graham and "his crew" did a great job. Compliments! For the final 4 days of the broadcast RNI was available via live streaming audio on the internet, thanks to KeConnect and Chip Support. The station was also live on shortwave (just like the original RNI) thanks to the internet link and to WBCQ (wbcq.com) on 7415 kHz. Monday 30th August was RNI's final day and the following pw's were aired that day: 0600-0900 Paul McLaren, 0900-1200 Phil Mitchell, 1200-1400 The RNI Story!, 1400-1700 Dave Rogers, 1700-2000 Graham Vine including at 19.05 The Jeff Lynne Connection, 2000-2100 Beatles vs Stones with Paul McLaren, 2100-2300 The RNI Story!, 2300-2400 Goodbye RNI and at 2400 shutdown (for good?). Available from October will be the RNI Picture Souvenir Book containing over 200 photographs of the 'Mebo 3', the Decklays and photos of the ship being prepared in Harwich harbour and the story of how the project came to be. For just £ 9.99 you can have a little piece of RNI in 1999 to keep and treasure over the years. This book will be a limited edition issue and only a few hundred will be available, individually numbered. So for your copies of the RNI Picture Souvenir Book, send a cheque or postal order for £ 9.99 to RNI Book Offer, 75Bian Avenue, Frinton-on-Sea, Essex CO13 9DD. All cheques payable to Radio Northsea International,

and own your own memories of RNI in 1999. A donation will be made to the RNLI from sales of the RNI Picture Souvenir Book. A list of 'RNI in 1999' memorabilia will be sent to all who order the RNI Picture Souvenir Book. Anyone else who would like a copy of the list of memorabilia, please send an SAE to the Frinton address, above. The RNI Story is available on 2 CDs for £ 21.99 from East Anglian Productions, 21-23 Walton Road, Frinton-on-Sea, Essex CO13 0AA, UK. Credit card hotline: 01225 676252. Email: cap@compuserve.com

RAADIO SCOTLAND RSL NEXT YEAR

The Radio Scotland RSL will be taking place in the new millennium August 2000 will see a 28 day revival of this former offshore station. Broadcasts will be done from studios in Glasgow. Many former staff will be attending the event, some of them coming from as far as Australia and Canada! Most of them still work in the radio-industry. Here are a few names having promised to take part: Jimmy Mack, Jack McLaughlin, Richard Park, Steve Merrick, Mel Howard, John Kerr, Bryan Vaughn, Ben Healy, Paul Young and Roger Gale.

MV PISCATOR

After a period of two years work on the MV Piscator is resumed. The ship lying in the Lanaca harbour in Cyprus. A Dutch crew is aboard the ship, converting it into a floating broadcasting station. The ship should be sailing to Cete for a new (Panamanian?) registration. Keith York, former VoP presenter said the ship would probably be used for trials off the Israeli coast aimed at the Orthodox Jewish community in Israel. The Piscator is a Schaevenegan fishing trawler having a length of 150 ft. The antenna has a height of approx. 100 ft. Already in 1997 the ship housed a studio which wasn't fully completed. Work was then carried out under the authority of a religious organization but was ceased because of the well-known financial problems many projects suffered from in the past. It's not clear whether the same organisation is responsible for resuming work on the vessel. For more info regarding the Israeli (Offshore) Radio scene take a look at: <http://www.offshore-radio.de/israelradio.htm>. Latest news: the local Lanaca (Cyprus) police visited the ship investigating whether the ship was fully equipped for broadcasting purposes. The Israeli ambassador urged for that. Because a number of vital tx parts were lacking, no further action was undertaken. According to a source, the Piscator is due to leave Cyprus heading for an anchorage of the Israeli coast.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD**Return of Radio Luxembourg?**

Already in August rumours were circulating about a return of the legendary Radio Luxembourg. The station left the AM airwaves back in 1999, the station continued on the Astra satellite only but one year later that adventure came to an end and "Lux 208" closed down for ever. We had hoped to include the latest news just before going to the printer but that didn't reach us in time. Keep an eye on 1440 and on the Astra satellite... More news in December (hopefully!).

John Peel 60

Thursday August 13th John Peel celebrated his 60th birthday. August 29th BBC 2 Television paid attention to John's birthday. Radio One did the same two days later with a special 4 hour broadcast. The TV coverage contained lots of archive stuff including Radio London picture

Delta Radio 171: start in Summer 2000?

The commercial radio station Delta 171 expects to be kicking off next Summer. This will be aired on long wave. In the mean time it is announced the headquarters will be housed in Amsterdam Construction of the tx which will be operational from a site outside the Dutch 12 mile limit off Walcheren, will soon begin. Maximumpower is 2000 kW. Trans is beamed into the UK with a format of popular music which will be a mix of the stations Radio 3 & Radio 5 Live on one side and Sky Radio (soft pop) on the other. Pts are aimed at the listeners in the age group 15-35 years. Pts are presented from British soil.

Annual Dutch Radio Day...

will be held in the Koningszaal, de Plantage Middenlaan 43 Amsterdam on Saturday March 25th 2000. This is in contrast with other years when it was organized in Haarlem. Details will follow within a few months. More info via SMC tel. +31 20 6621141.

Sources: Hans Knot/FRW, TTS MediaPro, FRN, SRS-News, M-Vision, RNI /FRSHL. The upcoming issue is out mid December!

FRS Sales Productions offers a wide range of recordings related to the 25th birthday of the close down of Veronica, R.N.I. & Atlantis. We also offer Caroline recordings from August 1999. For more info contact us at P.O.Box 2727, 6049 ZG Herten in the Netherlands. For DM 3.00/3 IRCd £ 1.00 we'll forward the complete 20+ page lists.